(c) and (d) The steps taken by the Government include facilitating the import of machinery, equipment and raw material, building up of infrastructural facilities, imparting design and development training for technicians under various international assistance and cooperation projects. A four-ycar UNDP assisted Leather Sector Programme has also come into operation with effect from 1-4-1992. The objectives of this programme include man-power development strengthening R&D Capacity to facilitate product and technology development etc. The Government has also set up a Footwear Design and Development Institute at Noida whose objectives include manpower development and imparting training at various levels.

Target for boosting rubber exports

665. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheter it is a fact that Government have fixed any specific targets for boosting rubber exports ;

(b) if so, whether rubber board has been involved in this deal ;

(c) what are the details of the specific targets fixed ;

(d) what are the details of the production and exports of natural rubber made during the last three years ;

(e) whether it is a fact that natural rubber is facing a tough competition from the synthetic rubber ; and

(f) if so, what efforts have been made, so far, to popularise the use of natural rubber ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Till recently, there was no regular export of natural rubber. On 17th January, 1992 Government allowed export of 14,000 MTs of natural rubber consisting 3000 MTs of centrifuged latex (dry rubber content), 5000 MTs of ISNR—20 grades of crumb uibber and 6000 MTs of off-grade rubber (other than RMA-4 and RMA-5 grades) by private exporters, keeping in view the surplus availability and to arrest the decline in prices at that time. The Rubber Board was made the agency to monitor the ceiling in respect of the export of this 14,000 MTs of natural rubber.

(d) The details of the production and exports of natural rubber made during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Production (Tonnes)	Export (Tonnes)
1989-90	2,97,300	Nil
1990-91	3,29,615	Nil
1991-92 (Estimated)	3,65,000	5834

(e) and (f) At present in, India general purpose synthetic rubbers are almost twice as costly as natural rubber and therefore, the question of facing tough competition does not arise.

Export of Marine Products

666. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the quantity and value of exports of marine products during the last 3 years, year-wise ; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to increase the quantum of exports of marine products during the Eighth Five Year Plan period ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The export of marine products during the last 3 years were :

(in Mts.) (Rs. crores)

Year	Qty.	Value
1989-90	110843	635
1990-91	139419	893
1991-92 Provisional	172800	1375

Source : — MPEDA Cochin)

(b) To increase export of marine products during Eighth Five Year Plan period, the following steps are being taken :

(i) Development of capture fisheries.

(ii) Bringing more areas under aqua-culture.

(iii) Increasing the per hectare yield from shrimp farms.

(iv) Developing culture production of other exportable items.

(v) Induction of new technology and value addition.

(vi) Modernising of processing facilities, quality up-gradation and reduction in waste.

Relaxation in Pre-shipment Inspection Policy for Export

667. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheter total removal or relaxation in pre-shipment inspection policy for export of goods is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, what are the goods that would be covered under the new policy with conditions, if any, that may go with it ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Consumer items to go off nagative list soon

668. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Consumer items to go off negative li soon" which appeared in The Economi Times of the 5th April, 1992 ;

(b) whether any list of such consume items has been short-listed ; and

(c) what are the details of such iten to be off negative list ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI I CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the Export and lmpoi Policy (1992—97), consumer goods ar under restraint. The intention of th Government is to keep the Negative Li: of Imports under review and to prune th List from time to time as exports gathc momentum and the economy gains strengtl

अखबारी कागज की खरीद और अवमूल्यन के पश्चात् उसका भुगतान

669. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रुपये का अवमूल्यन होने से पूर्व अखबारी कागज खरीदा गया था और उसका भुगतान अवमूल्यन के बाद किया गया जिसके परिणामस्वरूप सरकार को अधिक रुपयों का भुगतान करना पड़ा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह अखबारी कागज कितनी मात्रा में है तथा इसे कितने रुपए मूल्य में खरीदा गया था;

(ग) अवमूल्यन के पश्चात् कितनी अतिरिक्त धनराशि का भुगतान करना पड़ा था; और

(घ) इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्) : (क) और (ग) अखबारी कागज के आयात के लिये राज्य व्यापार निगम